
2022 RJD Veteran Art Show

Creative Writing Division Rules

Entries submitted into the Creative Writing Division will be judged based upon the merit of the original work, creative content, message clarity, use of language, originality of topic or idea, and overall strength.

1. Participant must be Veteran enrolled at Robert J Dole VA Medical Center.
2. Creative Writing may be entered into 1 of 2 tracks: Competitive or Noncompetitive/ "Just for show."
3. All work entered (except for the Military Combat Experience category or Just for Show) must have been completed after October 1, 2021. Work submitted in a prior year in any form of completion may not be entered again.
4. **No one Veteran will be allowed to submit more than four creative writing entries, including one "just for show."**
5. **Entries must be electronically received by July 29th via Microsoft word Document, 12 pt font. PDFs will not be accepted.**
6. **If a Veteran does not have access to a computer, a handwritten entry may be received, as long as it does not exceed 250 words.** Veteran understands that in this case, VAS representative transferring written text to electronic file will diligently enter info though is not responsible for typos or adjustment of paragraph formatting.
7. **Only finished Creative Writing entries will be accepted.** Entries that are "in the process of being edited" are not eligible for inclusion in either competitive/noncompetitive tracks.
8. **Participants must complete registration forms. If a registered entry is not received by July 29th, it will not be included in the program.**
9. **Creative Writing word/line count restrictions** – Each entry must adhere to the word/line count as specified in the subcategory.
10. **All entries submitted into the Creative Writing Division must be original compositions** written solely by the eligible Veteran who is submitting the entry.
11. **Collections of poems, essays, stories, etc. submitted as one entry will not be allowed.**

Creative Writing Subcategories

1. **Poetry Rhyming** - A verse composition, **no longer than 48 lines** in length. Poetry humorous entries should be submitted into the Humor category.

2. **Poetry Non-Rhyming** - A composition, **no longer than 48 lines** in length. Poetry humorous entries should be submitted into the Humor category.
3. **Personal Essay** - A non-fiction composition based on something the writer has experienced or felt. Entries in this category **must not exceed 850 words**.
4. **Humor** - All types of works which employ humor as the primary component should be submitted in this category. **Poetry entries should be no longer than 48 lines and prose entries must not exceed 850 words.**
5. **Short, Short Story** - A short story, **no longer than 1,000 words**. The story must have a beginning, middle, and an end.
6. **Short Script** - Part of a script for one or more characters. Scripts should document the movement, scene descriptions, acting style instructions, and dialogue of the characters and should be written in a screenplay format and resemble the blueprint for a play, television show, or film. Short Script entries written in prose format (written language that follows the natural flow of speech, with words and phrases that build full sentences and paragraphs) will not be accepted. Entries in this category **must not exceed 850 words**.
7. **Military Experience Poetry** – Poetry entries related to military experience should be submitted in this category. Entries must be **no longer than 48 lines in length**.
8. **Military Experience (not poetry)** – Entries (not poetry) related to military experience should be submitted in this category. **Entries in this category must not exceed 850 words.**
9. **Special Recognition** - Individual or group. Entries by Veterans who exhibit creative expression through use of creative writing while possessing significant physical or psychological limitations. The intent of this category is to reinforce the concept of the arts as therapy, where individuals use artistic expression to facilitate successful treatment outcomes. **Poetry entries should be no longer than 48 lines and prose entries must not exceed 850 words.**

Entries in this category **MUST** also include:

- **A Word document containing a typed statement/narrative** (25 to 225 words) composed by a VA staff person or the Veteran explaining why the Veteran is deserving of special recognition. **Entries submitted without a write-up will not be judged.**
- Consent form 10-3203 and 10-5345 (included in this handbook) must be signed and dated by the Veteran. The staff contact person submitting the entry for the Veteran should safeguard the signed consent forms at their VA facility.